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SOURCE Wirtschaft im Aufbau.CHEMICAL PLANTS IN SOVIET ZONE GERMANYSULFURIC ACID PLANT IN ORANIENBURGWirtschaft im Aufbau
No 9, 1 May 49

The "Alcid" sulfuric acid plant of the people-owned Pommerenzdorf Chemical Plant in Oranienburg, is an old plant which had been closed before the war but which has been repaired and rebuilt because of the great need for sulfuric acid in the Soviet Zone. Formerly, the plant also had a supersulfate plant, but this was destroyed during the war.

The plant has three furnaces, two old ones with a capacity of 18 tons each, and a more modern one with a capacity of 8 tons. The two larger ones are water-cooled, the smaller one air-cooled. Two of the furnaces are working full time, while the third, which is being kept as a reserve furnace, also is to start full-time operation soon.

The furnaces resemble large drums 8-10 meters high and about 4 meters in diameter. They have seven roasting levels, through which the pyrites pass successively during the roasting process. A so-called king shaft, running all the way down through the furnace, has a rotating arm attached at each roasting level to spread the pyrites. Each furnace is attended by four firemen and two fitters who are equipped with asbestos work clothes and gloves so that in case of necessity they can make repairs to the shaft or the spreading arms without interrupting the process.

The sulfur vapor which is produced by the roasting process is conducted through large pipes to a 55,000-volt electrical scrubbing apparatus where all foreign material is removed. The current for this installation is obtained from the plant's own transformer station.

The sulfur vapor then passes into five lead chambers, each large enough to contain a fair-sized house. Following a water bath, the vapor is precipitated with nitric acid, and the chamber acid, with a concentration of 70 percent, forms in these lead chambers. Afterward the acid goes through various absorption and distillation installations until the desired degree of purity and concentration is obtained.

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ERKNER CHEMICAL FACTORY

Wirtschaft im Aufbau
No 13, 1 Jul 49

The Erkner Chemical Factory is located on the bank of the Spree river, not far from the Erkner railroad station. Several railroad tracks run into the extensive factory grounds, so that the cars can be loaded directly in the factory.

The factory had been owned by Rutgers, A. G., Berlin, since 1861, until on 1 June 1947 it became the property of the people. A sister plant was destroyed during the war, and this plant suffered some damage, most of which has now been repaired. It employs nearly 500 workers, in three shifts, and produces all types of "black tar products," derived from black coal tar, including pitch, soft pitch, adhesive materials used in the manufacture of roofing paper, and special tars such as steel mill tar, cable tar, roofing tar, etc. These are the main products in the factory's output, but the distillation of tar is another important part of the factory's operations. Items produced include mainly impregnating oils, fuel oils, benzene scrubbing oil (used to remove benzene from gases), and crude naphthalene, which is delivered to the Buna plant and to the Hydrierwerke for use in the production of synthetic rubber.

The benzene-processing plant produces, among other things, the well-known "90" commercial benzene, pure toluol, which is used in the production of saccharin, and pure xylol, which is used as a solvent for paints and varnishes. By-products in the processing of benzene are pyridine and its homologues, used in pharmaceutical and photographic industries. The "Karboll" plant, which occupies a considerable area, processes the acid tar oils to produce phenol, which is used in the production of pharmaceuticals and synthetic resins. Two other products produced are orthocresol and xylenol. There are no waste products in the processing of black coal tar, as all residue materials are sold for further processing in other plants.

This factory works exclusively to satisfy civilian requirements in the Soviet Zone and for export to both the East and the West.

The plant is making an exemplary effort to give professional training to its employees. Apprentices have built a new training workshop themselves, working voluntarily evenings and Sundays. There is a kindergarten in the plant where 35 to 40 children of employees are cared for, also a shoemaker's shop and a tailoring and clothing repair shop. Other installations include a first-aid station, a cafeteria and recreation hall, and a fire-fighting unit manned by 35 men.

Every effort is made to assure safety within the plant. All equipment is provided with necessary protective devices, and the workers are supplied with protective powder and protective glasses. The plant also has special clarifying and purifying installations to treat waste water before it is emptied into the Spree.

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